GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:310
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2002
EXPLOITATION OF OPPORTUNITIES
SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI;V. VETRISELVAN

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Economic Forum in a recently released report has assessed the capacity of 75 countries to exploit opportunities offered by information and communication technology sector;

(b) if so, the rank of India in the said report;

(c) the criteria laid down for fixing the rank;

(d) whether the report has identified some bottlenecks with regard to use of ICT in India; and

(e) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve India`s position in ICT sector?

Answer

MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY(SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN)

(a),(b),(c),(d) and (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.310 FOR 11.12.2002 REGARDING EXPLOITATION OF OPPORTUNITIES.

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): India has been ranked 54 in the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) readiness among the selected 75 countries that represent more than 80% of the World`s population.

(c): Networked Readiness Index (NRI) for a country has been computed based on the assessment of the level of Network Use Component Index and Enabling Factors Component Index as per the following details:

Networked Readiness Index	:	54
Network Use Components Index	:	60
Enabling Factors Component Index	:	49

Further the Enabling Factors and ranking of their sub-components, is as given below:

Network Access:	:	50
- Information Infrastructure	:	65
- Hardware, Software and Support	:	34
Networked Policy:	:	47
- Business & Economic Environment	:	57
- ICT Policy	:	36
Networked Society:	:	52

-	Networked Learning	:	31
-	ICT Opportunities	:	53
-	Social Capital	:	71
Networked Economy:		:	42
-	E-Commerce	:	29
-	E-Governance	:	33
-	General Infrastructure	:	63

(d): The analysis of the Network Readiness Indexes up to the micro-index level indicates that there is need to focus and prioritize plans for creating more Information Infrastructure, higher Social Capital, better Business & EconomicEnvironment and requisite General Infrastructure of Power, Airports, Rail & Road etc.

(e): Government has taken following steps for improving the ICT position of India:

- Telecom sector has been fully opened-up and new investments are being made by several private and Government service providers in the areas like National and International Long Distance, Internet Service Providers, Basic telephony etc.

- Government of India has set up 487 Community Information Centers in the North eastern region, which provide Internet access to the people in this region including several other value added services. Subject to the availability of financial resources, there is plan to provide at least one such Community Information Center in each of the around 6000 Blocks in the country.

- Government has supported R&D initiatives of the institutions like IITs, Regional Institutions and Universities for development in Local languages and the computer interfaces in some languages have already been developed and are being used.

- Towards the objective of achieving `Information for All`, Government has set up Medialab Asia in collaboration with MIT USA.Its objective is to pursue need based and relevant R&D like low cost home computing and networking products and solutions so as to provide affordable systems to the masses in India.

- Broad milestones to be achieved by the year 2008 are as follows:

	2001-2002	2008-2009
Computers per 1000 people	6	20
Internet User per 1000 people	6	